



THE

# KNIGHT



VOLUME 28 No. 3. Issue #149. The LITHUANIAN Numismatic Association. Frank Passic, EDITOR. January-February 2006

## PREPARE FOR EURO !

Lithuanian numismatics will be revolutionized beginning on January 1, 2007 when the national monetary system, the Litas will be no more, and the European Union monetary system, the *Euro* will become the official money used in the Republic of Lithuania. A news release by the Bank of Lithuania (reproduced elsewhere here *The Knight*) gives the philosophy and details concerning this upcoming, monumental economic event.

A design competition was held in 2004 in which 14 artists participated, producing 54 plaster models. On February 24, 2005, The Currency Design and Production Commission of the Bank of Lithuania approved three models produced by sculptor Antanas Žukauskas to use on the national side of the new Euro coins.

The Mint of Lithuania in Vilnius has now minted 2007-dated Euro pattern coins and the Bank of Lithuania has placed them on display, in order to help educate the public of the upcoming changeover which will affect every Lithuanian.

Lithuanian-produced euro coins will carry the same basic national side inner design: The Vytis emblem in the center, the word "LIETUVA" underneath, the "LMK" mintmark emblem in the lower left, with the date above the shield area in the upper right.

All coins will bear a circle of 12 stars as the outer design, representative of the original 12 members of the European Union.

The 1 and 2 Euro denominations will be bi-metallic. The 1 Euro will be "gold colored" on the outer rim, with a cupro-nickel center. The outer Euro stars design will have a background of vertical lines forming the background.

On the 2 Euro coin, the metallic content is switched. It will be "gold colored" on the inside, and

(Continued next page)



1 Euro  
Pattern



2 Euro  
Pattern



## 2. **PREPARE FOR EURO !**

(Continued from page 1...)

cupro-nickel for the outer portion.

The 10, 20, and 50 Euro cent coins will all be "gold colored," with a horizontal line background for the stars portion.

The 1, 2, and 5 cent denominations will be copper-colored, with a plain background for the stars portion.

All coins will carry the common Euro design for the obverse as used in other European Union countries. These depict the denomination numeral with the word "Euro" or "Cent" depending upon the denomination. A background outline of Europe forms the background. All Euro coins produced in Lithuania will be legal tender across Europe in the entire EU circulation area. Euro coins produced in other countries will also be legal tender in Lithuania.

The Mint of Lithuania will mint the coins bearing the word/spelling "Euro" on those denominations. This is a compromise reached with EU officials, instead of minting them with the Lithuanian-language version which should have stated "Eura." The linguistically correct "Eura" name will be used however in print, transactions, and in daily life in Lithuania.

Latvia to the north however is resisting the spelling of the word Euro, and voted on January 3, 2006 to use its linguistically-correct "eiro" because the dipthong "eu" doesn't exist in the Latvian language. The country would defend its position in the European Court if necessary, according to an article published in Coin World, February 20, 2006, pg. 78.

## **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE EURO**

The following information is reproduced from the website of the Bank of Lithuania concerning the upcoming introduction of the Euro monetary system to Lithuania. For more information, visit their website at: [www.lbank.lt/eng/euro/euro.htm](http://www.lbank.lt/eng/euro/euro.htm).

### **What is the euro?**

The euro is the single currency of twelve European Union Member States (Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain) that have joined the euro area. The euro was introduced in 1999 for non-cash settlements, while on 1 January 2002 euro cash – banknotes and coins – was issued into circulation in the twelve countries of the euro area.



*10, 20, 50  
Cent pattern*



*1, 2, 5  
Cent pattern*

(Continued next page...)



### **What are the denominations of euro coins and banknotes?**

Euro coins of seven denominations and banknotes of eight denominations have been circulating since 1 January 2002.

The denominations of euro coins are the following: 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 cent and 1 and 2 euro (1 euro=100 cents).

- The obverse of all coins has the same design and symbolises the idea of a united Europe;
- The reverse of all coins differs in every country.

Coin denominations vary in size, weight, form and metal composition. The higher denomination coins – 1 and 2 euro – have two colours (silver and gold colours). The medium denomination coins – 10, 20 and 50 cents – are of gold colour, while the low denomination coins – 1, 2 and 5 cents – have the colour of copper.

The denominations of euro banknotes are the following: 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 and 500.

- Each banknote denomination is of different colour and size;
- The banknotes depict windows, arches, gates and bridges, a map of Europe and the European flag.

### **How can I recognise a real euro banknote?**

Euro banknotes are well protected with modern security features. To make sure whether the banknote is real, look for the main banknote security features.

### **How do the countries that introduced the euro exchange their currencies?**

Depending on the regulations set by each country of the euro area, the national currencies of these countries (German marks, French francs, Spanish pesetas, etc.) circulated along with the euro for a period ranging from four weeks to two months after the introduction of the euro (1 January 2002). At present, the euro is the only legal tender in all of these countries.

Commercial banks of each euro area country exchanged the legacy currencies for a set period (from one to three months). The central banks of these countries will exchange these currencies for an unlimited time or within a set term: banknotes for at least 10 years, coins for 2 years.

### **What are the exchange rates for exchanging the euro into the legacy currencies?**

The legacy currencies of the euro area countries are exchanged into the euro on the basis of irrevocable exchange rates set by the European Council on 1 January 1999. One euro is equal to:

0.787564 Irish pounds (IEP)  
 13.7603 Austrian schillings (ATS)  
 40.3399 Belgian francs (BEF)  
 340.750 Greek drachmas (GRD)  
 166.386 Spanish pesetas (ESP)  
 1936.27 Italian liras (ITL)  
 40.3399 Luxembourg francs (BEF)  
 2.20371 Dutch guilders (NLG)  
 200.482 Portuguese escudos (PTE)  
 6.55957 French francs (FRF)  
 5.94573 Finnish markkas (FIM)  
 1.95583 German marks (DEM)

### **What is the euro area?**

The euro area consists of the EU Member States that have introduced the common currency, the euro. The euro is made up of 12 countries: Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain.

### **What is the planned euro adoption date in Lithuania and who will set it?**

The Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Bank of Lithuania consider **1 January 2007** being the most appropriate date for the adoption of the euro in the country.

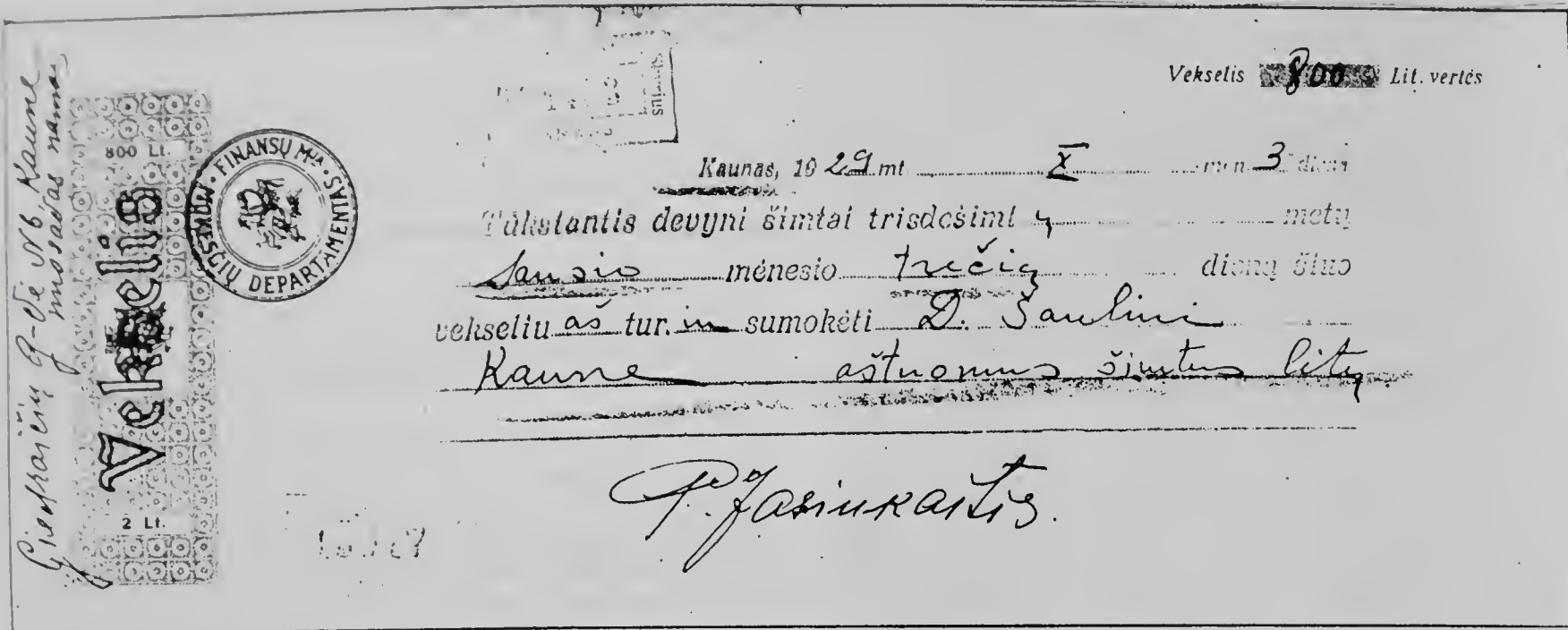
Setting the date for the adoption of the euro by any Member State of the European Union (EU) is within the competence of the Economic and Financial Affairs Council (Ecofin Council).

### **What are the arrangements for the adoption of the euro in Lithuania?**

The arrangements for the adoption of the euro are laid down in the National Changeover Plan (hereinafter Plan). The Government of the Republic of Lithuania approved this Plan by its Resolution No. 1050 of 29 September 2005. The Plan singles out a period for preparation to adopt the euro, the dual (litas and euro) circulation period and the period after the dual circulation period.

(Continued on page 8 . . .)

# LITHUANIAN PROMISSORY NOTES



## [Installment #2. By Eduardas Horbačiauskas. From "Koleckcija" magazine, No. 1, 1994. Continued from last issue...]

The design of the first issue had a dark blue design with red details, similar to the design of Russian promissory notes. On the corner of A. Veryhos-Darevski's report is an annotation by Minister J. Vileišis: "Please have these blanks printed under the supervision of the Government. I think it would be better to decrease the number of blanks printed, and, for sums greater than 1,000 auksinių, we should inform Stockholm after we determine the number we require." The order was placed with Lifšico Press in Kaunas (according to V. Užtupas), with the same printer who produced the occupational "Ostmark" banknotes. "Ostmarks" were later called "auksinai."

The order was filled and the blank promissory notes were delivered to the Kaunas Treasury on December 31, 1919. There, the State Treasury Seal was rubber stamped to the right of the ornamentation.

As the forms were used up, the same plates were used to print new ones. Since a great number of these notes were issued in 1922, even branch offices of the Treasury were rubber stamping the blank forms with the Treasury Seal.

We don't know if the larger denomination promissory notes (from 1,000 to 100,000 auksinai) were printed in Sweden, but between April 9, and 11 of 1921, the whole run was delivered to the Kaunas Treasury (Kaunas Treasury Daily Intake Log, August 1, 1919-January 1, 1922, entered by J. Kareckas, 1935). It's

### ABOVE: Last Type of First Issue Promissory Note.

a shame that Jonas Kareckas [-Karys] did not indicate the quantity of the first issue notes delivered, since the numbers recommended by A. Veryhos-Darevski had been modified.

The 29 cm. by 22 cm. promissory note blank forms were printed with watermarks on Finnish paper that was similar to parchment. On the right side of the note was a gilt Vytis in silhouette.

These promissory notes circulated until the appearance of the litas. Then, from October to December 1922, on the unused promissory notes, the litas designation was overprinted. The exchange rate was 1 auksinas = 1 litas.

When the litas was introduced, plates were prepared in litas denominations, but the other elements of the promissory notes were retained. These were the last promissory note blanks printed by the State Treasury and rubber stamped with the Treasury Seal.

From November 1923 to January 1924 the last promissory note blank forms were printed on parchment paper with watermarks and, for the first time, the seal of the Collections Department was printed by lithograph.

This indicates that the State Insignia Regulatory Committee had been established, later it would be called the State Insignia Regulatory Committee. It was now no longer necessary to rubber stamp them with the Treasury seal to safeguard them, especially during the printing process.



From May 1925 to January 1925 the notes were printed on paper with a honeycomb pattern watermark. These were stamped with Tax Department stamps "b," "c," and "d" (see catalog).

On April 28, 1925, paper with a "Vytis" and "1925" watermarks were purchased. This was the beginning of the last emission for the first issue of Lithuanian promissory notes, which lasted until the end of 1929. The printer tried to duplicate the colors used for the notes issued previously, however, the blue color turned out completely green.

A great number of notes from this type were issued and it is the one most commonly used. Notes were printed every year for five years, except for 1926.

Errors occurred providing collectors with an interesting variety.

As is well known, when printing in many colors, each color has its own plate. When one operation is completed, the dyes have to dry. Then the next color is printed with a different plate. On one occasion, after the green ornamentation was printed on a run of 1925 10 litai promissory notes, the stacks of printed notes were placed printed side down.

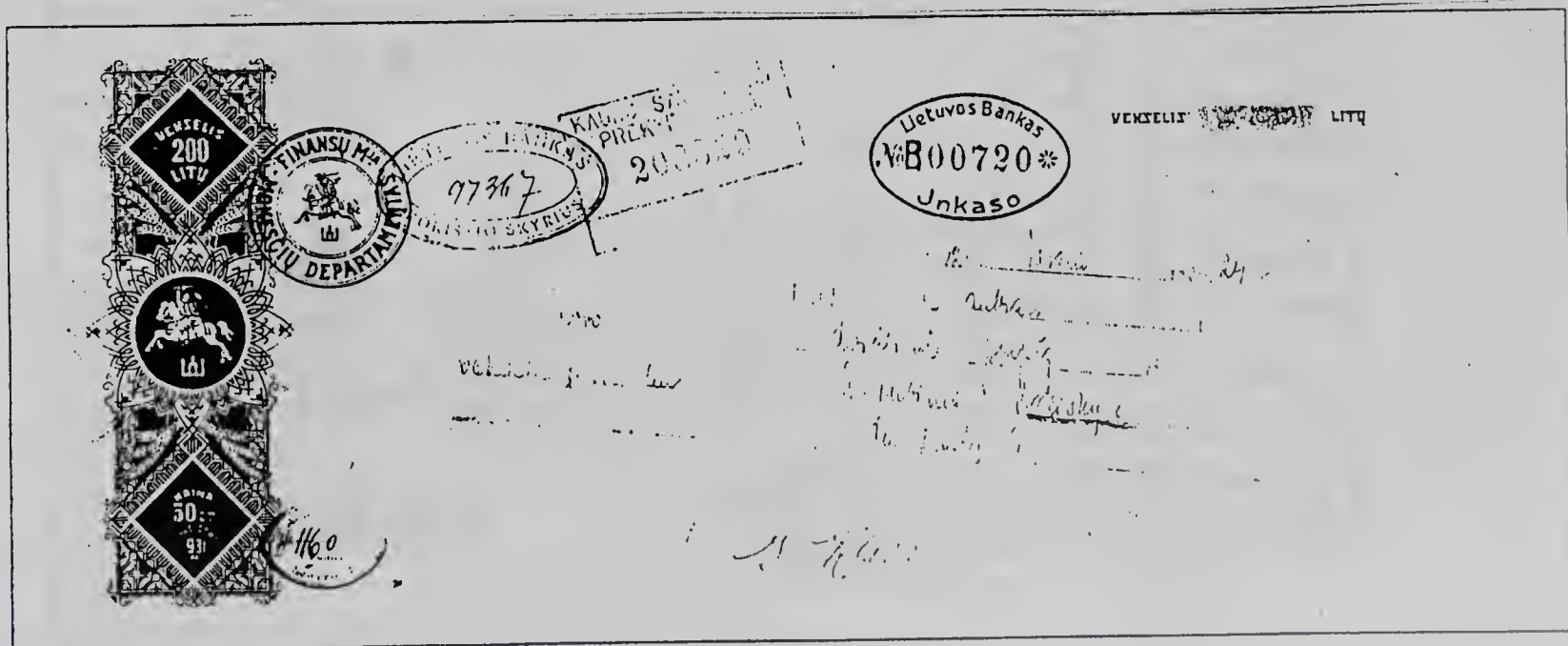
The next day, perhaps a different shift of workers, printed the green ornamentation again on the blank side. Other operations were completed for this run. The notes were cut and counted, and on January 25, 1925, 44,579 notes were delivered to the Central Stores of the Bank of Lithuania. The bank employees noted this "novelty." The Collections Department was notified. It was decided to place an announcement in the newspaper "Lietuva" stating that the promissory notes with the green ornamentation on the reverse were valid.

At the end of 1929, paper with a "Vytis" and "1925" watermarks ceased being used. On December 31, 1929, the last sheet of this type of paper was retained as a souvenir. The size of the paper was 62 x 96 centimeters. Sixteen promissory notes fit on one sheet.

The story of the first issue cannot end without mentioning the Office for the Control and Printing of Securities. It was the link between the Department, the Spindulys Press, and the Bank of Lithuania. One of its most important functions was, in conjunction with a representative of the State, to receive the printed securities at the printer. File No. 927 of the Lithuanian Central State Archives contains documents, lists of commissions, deliveries of securities, and signatures as well as alcohol tax stamps, lottery cards, blank promissory notes, loan payment coupons, credit union stamps and tax stamps, etc. One document reads, "January 5, 1924. S. Svirelis received from the chairman of the State Seal Committee Mr. Kronas, all seals and accreditations. Also accredited are Juozas Vaštakas, Pranas Sikorskis, and Simas Braševičius. September 9, 1924. Jonas Radykas appointed. October 22, 1924, Jurgis Ramanauskas appointed." (Lithuanian Central Archives/LCVA F927-6-7.)

Stepas Svirelis, a volunteer during the Lithuanian Wars of Independence, was appointed overseer in the manufacture of State control stamps and seals, and remained at that post for over 10 years. Finally, because of politics, he had to relinquish the position to another (according to J. Radykas). Later, he was deported to Siberia. Oversight of the

Continued next page...



Second issue promissory note



**Lithuanian Promissory Notes. December 31, 1919--August 10, 1940.**

## Administering the Assessment

# LIETUVIŠKI VEKSELIAI 1919.XII.31-1940.VIII.10

[illegible]

Sixers, L. Nordhausen 1904 in  
pagel. Lebens C. M. p. 73, 927  
d. Art. modifikation.



manufacture of State stamps and seals was suspended on January 8, 1941.

In 1929, the Director of the Tax Department received this document: "December 9, 1929. In accordance with the directive of November 16, 1929, attached are three examples of colored promissory notes for your approval, Mr. Director. S. Svirvelis. Ornamentation designed by Jonas Buračas, son of Pranas. Kaunas, Laisvės Alieja 47-8, Illa."

As can be seen, new promissory notes were being designed and the era of the first issue of promissory notes came to an end.

## **SECOND ISSUE OF LITHUANIAN PROMISSORY NOTES (1930-1938).**

The paper to print the promissory notes was purchased on September 16, 1929. The watermarks were imprinted at the Spindulys printing house. The watermark was dominated by a Vytis, with the word "Vekselis" above it, and the Columns of Gedminas emblem underneath. These watermarks were retained on the third issue note.

The ornamentations on 100, 200, 300, 400, and 500 litai blanks was dark green with red circle and rhombi. On the 1,000, 2,000, 5,000, and 10,000 litai blanks they were dark brown with a red circle and rhombi. Next to the denomination of the note is the date of issue, a detail which is a great help to the collector.

At the top of the ornamentation is the seal of the Finance Ministry, Tax Department. It is a Vytis designed by Juozas Zikaras and the Columns of Gediminas underneath (See "e" in the catalog.).

The first issue promissory notes not used up remained valid, since there was no statute directing that they be destroyed. The new notes were printed as required until the end of 1933, when it was realized that they were illegal since there was no statute covering these blank promissory notes. As a result, the Tax Department issued this directive:

"January 29, 1934. To The Securities Commission and the Spindulys Printing House: You are hereby directed to quickly, by working day and night, add the date February 1, 1934 to each promissory note blank approved by the Finance Minister. Department Director. Received January 29, 1934, 14:30 hours."

"January 29, 1934: You are directed to retrieve without hesitation from the Bank of Lithuania promissory note blanks and print on each the date of February 1, 1934. Department Director.

"February 1, 1934. Statue regarding Promissory Note Blanks. 1. Existing promissory note blank forms are hereby retrieved. New design of the notes is to be determined by the Finance Minister.

2. Old style promissory notes that have been issued between February 1, 1934 and March 1, 1934 can be redeemed with Land Bank Loan Shares under the same conditions as the promissory notes issued before February 1, 1934.

3. Old style promissory note blanks can be exchanged for the new blank forms from February 1, 1934 to March 1, 1934 at the Bank of Lithuania and its branches. After March 1, 1934, only new style promissory note blanks are to be used.

4. This statute is in effect from the date of announcement. Government News 435/3036."

The design of the new blanks was the same except for the aforementioned violette rosette.

The 1934 Promissory Note Registration Book was not in the archives, thus it is very hard to determine how many unused blanks issued from 1930 to 1933 were returned to have the rosette added.

Fortunately, the Control Ledger of the State Securities Control Commission had survived. After some work, the date was extracted and the statistics have been tabulated in this table [See table illustration]:

Litas denomination	Issued				Rosette added
	1930	1931	1932	1933	
100	584,293	522,268	692,496	423,500	518,114
200	429,076	527,364	368,127	264,000	437,963
300	278,221	256,218	191,200	200,000	276,377
400	136,000	207,460	-	-	-
500	486,821	-	388,900	-	317,522
1,000	330,303	-	105,400	115,000	109,232
2,000	-	31,738	51,800	-	63,271
5,000	-	-	-	10,700	10,492
10,000	5,500	-	10,250	-	6,245

Continued  
Next  
Issue...



## 8. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE EURO (Continued from page 3...)

The target date for the adoption of the euro in Lithuania is 1 January 2007. On this day, the euro would become legal tender in Lithuania.

On 1 January 2007 enterprise balance sheets, all litas accounts of institutions, enterprises and individuals with banks would be converted to the euro on the basis of the irrevocable fixed conversion rate between the litas and the euro set forth by the Council of the European Union.

Under the Plan, persons engaged in the sale of goods (provision of services) will have to introduce dual display of prices of goods (services) in euro and in litas at least 60 calendar days before the date of the adoption of the euro and continue for 60 days after the date of the adoption of the euro. On 13 December 2005, the Commission for the Coordination of the Adoption of the Euro in the Republic of Lithuania decided to extend this term by 2 months: the prices will have to be displayed in euro and in litas no less than 90 calendar days before the adoption of the euro and 90 calendar days after the adoption of the euro.

Legal acts will contain a provision that 60 days before the €-day, entrepreneurs, payers of pensions and other social payments will have to ensure that wages, pensions and other social payments paid in litas should be expressed not only in litas but in euro as well.

Under the Plan, following the introduction of the euro, payments for goods and services in litas will continue to be accepted for 15 days; banks, however, will not be able to issue litas to their clients. During the dual circulation period retailers will have to accept payments in both euro and litas, while the change should preferably be paid in euro only. From 16 January 2007 the euro would become the only legal tender in Lithuania.

The Bank of Lithuania will exchange the litas into the euro free of charge for an unlimited time in unlimited amounts. According to the provisions of the Plan, commercial banks will exchange litas into euro free of charge for 60 days following the date of the adoption of the euro. After the expiry of this period, commercial banks will be allowed to charge a fee set by them for the exchange of litas into euro.

It is proposed that the provisions of currency exchange foreseen in the Plan should be included in the Republic of Lithuania Law on the Adoption of the Euro in the Republic of Lithuania.

### **What exchange rate will the euro be adopted at?**

The position of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Bank of Lithuania is that the present fixed exchange rate regime and the current official exchange rate between the litas and the euro of 3.4528 litas for 1 euro with a zero band is suitable for participation in ERM II and the adoption of the euro.

### **What will be the benefits of the adoption of the euro?**

The adoption of the euro will completely abolish exchange rate risk, and the Lithuanian financial market will become part of the common financial market of the euro area. This will remove the need for foreign exchange transactions in settlements with the main trading partners in Europe, cut borrowing and transfer costs, encourage investment and trade. The use of the euro by all main Lithuania's trading partners will make price comparisons easier, which will promote sound competition and abolish price movements determined by exchange rate changes. These and many other factors should contribute to faster economic growth in Lithuania, creation of jobs and the rise of the standard of living to EU level.

### **What are the requirements to EU Member States aiming to adopt the euro?**

The Maastricht Treaty sets the following convergence criteria to EU Member States aiming to adopt the euro:

1. Inflation should not exceed average inflation in three EU Member States with the lowest inflation by more than 1.5 percentage points. This should be long-term price stability.
2. The general budget deficit may not exceed 3 per cent of GDP or should be approaching this level in a fast and consistent way.
3. Public debt may not exceed 60 per cent of GDP or should be going down in a fast and consistent way.
4. Long-term interest rates on Government securities should not exceed average long-term interest rates on Government securities in three EU Member States with the lowest level of inflation by more than 2 percentage points.
5. The country's national currency must be stable and stay within the set band against the euro for at least two years of participation in ERM II.



# COIN DESIGN WINS INTERNATIONAL AWARD

(From *Draugas*, July 13, 2005. Translated by Aleksandras Radžius)

Vilnius, July 12 (ELTA) The 50 litų commemorative coin celebrating the 425th anniversary of the Vilnius University won an award at the Italian international 'Vicenza Numismatica' exhibit.

For the second time, coins issued in 2004 were evaluated at an exhibit organized in the northern Italian city of Vincenza. For its depiction of architecture, the Lithuanian coin was awarded the "International Prize Vicenza Palladio".

The committee of judges considered the architectural depiction of the University of Vilnius on the reverse of the coin, the blending of the matte and mirror finishes, and praised the fine symmetry of the silver coin's design.

The judges were impressed by the fact that when the coin is viewed from one angle, the Alma Mater founding date is visible - and from another angle, the year 2004. This was the first time such technology in the minting of Lithuanian coins was used.

"There are not many exhibit like this in Europe, thus we can only be glad that a Lithuanian coin was so appreciated in Italy," said the Cashier Department Director of the Bank of Lithuania, Liudas Jonikas.

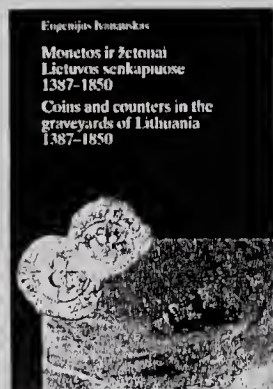
The coin was designed by Rytas Jonas Belevičius with input from members of the Bank of Lithuania Coin Design Commission as well as consultants. The commemorative coin was minted by the mintmasters of the Lithuanian Coin Mint.

Two thousand Vilnius University Commemorative coins and 200,000 one litai coins for general circulation were minted.

On the reverse of both coins is an ensemble of University of Vilnius buildings. On the obverse are the arms of the Republic of Lithuania surrounded by a band of leafy ornamentation. And, "Universitas Vilmensis" is engraved along the edge.

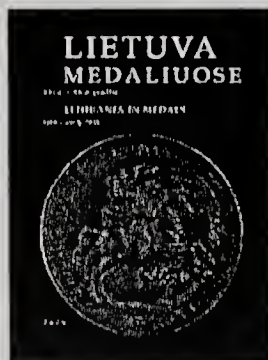
## NUMISMATIC BOOKS

Balzėkas Museum of Lithuanian Culture Gift Shop,  
6500 S. Pulaski Rd., Chicago, IL 60632 (773) 582-6500



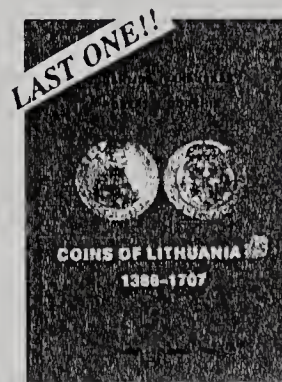
Coins and  
Counters  
in the Grave-  
yards  
of Lithuania  
1387-1850.  
By E. Ivanauskas.  
Lists over 200  
graveyards and  
coins and  
counters found in  
them. Published  
by Savastis,  
Vilnius, 2001.

225 pages. In Lithuanian. \$28 #113

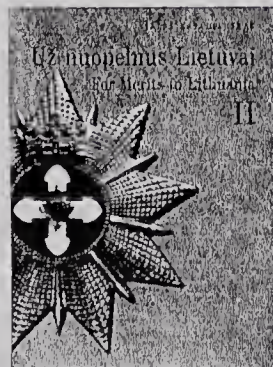


SALE !!! \$55 #110

Lithuania in  
Medals.  
16th-20th  
centuries.  
Portraits of  
sovereigns and  
knights, medals  
dedicated to  
various  
societies, church  
medals and  
much more.  
1998. 221p.



Coins of  
Lithuania  
1386-1707.  
By Eugenijus  
Ivanauskas  
and Robert J.  
Douchis.  
Published by  
Savastis,  
Vilnius-  
Columbia, 1999.  
In English. 271  
pages.



For Merits to  
Lithuania II. List  
of Lithuanian  
and foreign  
Citizens  
Awarded by  
Orders and  
Medals of  
Lithuania 1918-  
1940.  
By Vilius  
Kavaliauskas.  
Published by  
Daigai, Vilnius,

2003. With photos, 711 pages. \$150 #111



Mintis, Vilnius, 1993. In Lithuanian.  
397 pages. \$35 #332

Lietuvos  
ordinar,  
medaliai ir  
zenklėliai  
1918-1940.  
Lithuanian  
Orders,  
Medals, Pins  
1918-1940.

By Algimantas  
Astikas.  
Published by



For Merits to  
Lithuania.  
Orders and  
Medals of the  
Republic of  
Lithuania 1918-  
1940.  
By Vilius  
Kavaliauskas  
Published by  
VAGA, Vilnius,  
2001. With  
photos, 505  
pages.

Lithuanian and English descriptions of  
Lithuanian orders and medals and their  
famous recipients. \$95 #111

E-mail: [giftshop@lithuanianmuseum.org](mailto:giftshop@lithuanianmuseum.org)



## 10. WANT/FOR SALE ADS

*(Note This is a FREE service to LNA members. List your material here!)*

**WANTED:** Early Lithuanian coins, pre-1707 to trade or buy. **AND:**

**FOR SALE:** Bi-metallic gold & silver 200 litai, Mindaugas coronation 750th Anniversary. KM #136. \$385.00 payable in U.S. funds, money order. Write to: Edward Baleisa, 200 Burnhamthorpe Road, E. State #606, Mississauga, Ontario. Canada. L5A 4L4.

**WANTED:** Picture postcards of Lithuania, Klaipėda/Memel, pre-1941 only. Send photocopies with prices to: J.R. Greene, 26 Bearsden Road, Athol, MA 01331.

**WANTED:** Lithuanian medieval gold and silver coins. Highest prices paid. E-mail me at: Lith57@aol.com, or write: Tony Tumonis, P.O. Box 89792, Tucson, AZ 85752.

**FOR SALE:** New 2005 1 litas cupro-nickel "Palace of the Rulers" circulation issue coin, in UNC. \$2.50 each. Also 2004 Vilnius University 1 litas in UNC. Frank Passic, 900 S. Eaton St., Albion, MI 49224.

## LETTERS

I enjoy the wide variety of topics and historical background. Questions: Has anyone researched the story of the red clay (terra cotta?) wedding tokens? Do they represent money? Does the LNA have a website? How much would it cost? This is the way people do searches these days for niche interests. --Douglas Komer, Northville, MI.

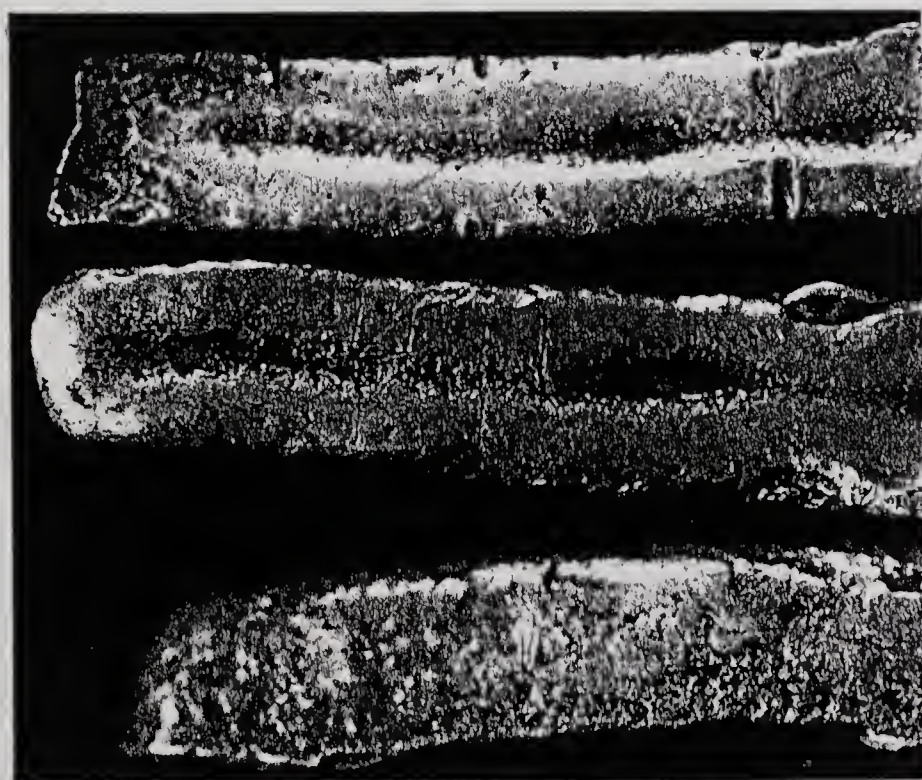
[Editor's note: I do not know anything at all about the wedding tokens. Regarding a website, we do not have one. However yes, that would be nice. Unfortunately we do not have the time nor expertise to establish and maintain such a site. If anyone would like to volunteer, let our Director Alex know.]

I was a charter member of the LNA but in the 1980s I felt rightly or wrongly that the emphasis was becoming more political than numismatic and I just let my membership slide. When I ran into Frank again at the Michigan State Numismatic show, he gave me a copy of The Knight and when I read it I realized just how much I was missing and rejoined. I have enjoyed the articles, especially yours, Alex. All the best, --Graham Esler, Ontario, Canada.

## LETTERS, Continued...

Recently a Novogrod grivna was stolen from my collection. This item is unique and can be readily identified by comparison to photographs (attached). It is conceivable that in the future this item may cross your path. Your assistance in retrieving the grivna would be most appreciated. --Andy Plioplys, Chicago, IL. (708) 445-5060.

12th-13th century Novgorod grivna, 202.69 grams, 14.8 cm, stolen from a locked display cabinet at the residence of Audrius V. Plioplys MD, Chicago, Illinois, between December 9 and 29, 2005. Chicago police report #HL817479 (Dec. 30, 2005). Dr. Plioplys can be reached by phone (708-445-5060), email (plioplysav@prodigy.net) and FAX (773-445-0123)



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